APPENDIX C

GERSTLE RIVER EXPANSION AREA 2/11/98 RAB MEETING

GERSTLE RIVER EXPANSION AREA RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY RAB Meeting -February 11, 1998

The February 11, 1998 Gerstle River Expansion Area Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting was held at Delta Junction City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska at 6:00 p.m. The RAB Meeting was scheduled based on feedback from the previous RAB Meeting held on December 9, 1997.

The meeting was advertised in the Delta Wind on January 22, 1998 and in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner on February 8 and February 10, 1998. A public notice was also posted in several locations within the community of Delta Junction. Copies of the advertisements and the poster are included in Exhibit A.

Mr. Tim Webb, Community Co-chair for the RAB, presided over the meeting. Representatives from the Delta Junction community, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), and Dames & Moore (contractor to the Corps) were in attendance. A copy of the sign-in sheet for the meeting is included in Exhibit B. Meeting handouts are included in Exhibit C.

Agenda items for the meeting included approving the agenda, approving meeting minutes from the 12/9/97 RAB Meeting, confirming new RAB Members, adopting RAB bylaws and mission statement, a presentation by Dave Westerman of the Corps of Engineers, the status of firefighting at the area, and a review of current and future activities related to the Gerstle River Expansion Area site investigation. Ms. Irene Mead was confirmed as a new RAB member. Current RAB members are listed on the current RAB Member Contact List included in Exhibit D. Meeting minutes from the February 11, 1998 RAB Meeting are located directly following this summary.

Meeting Minutes
Gerstle River Expansion Area
Restoration Advisory Board Meeting
February 11, 1998, 6:00 p.m., Delta Junction City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Tim Webb, RAB Community Co-Chair.

Introductions and sign in

RAB Members Present
Audrey Brown
Bob Chivvis (COE)
Nat Good
Jim Levine (COE)
Irene Mead
Paul Miller
Thomas Miller
Ronan Short (ADEC)
Tamie Webb
Tim Webb

Guests Present
Kim Morris (D&M)
Al Edgren (ADNR)
Clark Milne (D&M)
Dave Westerman (COE)
Wayne Woodbury

Agenda Items (see attached)

- 1. Approve meeting agenda A suggestion was brought up to add an agenda item to discuss the status of firefighting at the state and federal levels at the Gerstle River Expansion Area (agenda item #7). A second suggestion was made to confirm any new RAB members (agenda item #3).
- 2. <u>Approval of 1/29/97 Meeting Minutes</u> Dave Westerman of the Corps suggested modifications to the notes taken during the teleconference with Tom See, based on his recollection. There was some discussion on whether the teleconference should be conducted again, if the RAB were to determine that more specific answers to questions were required than the notes presented in the 12/29/97 meeting minutes.

Audrey Brown suggested that an editorial remark be deleted from the minutes pertaining to whether the Corps had conducted a records review at the National Archives in Anchorage. The meeting minutes should reflect what is actually said at the meeting.

- 3. <u>Confirm new RAB members</u> Irene Mead was confirmed by unanimous consent as a new RAB member.
- 4. Approve RAB Bylaws and Mission Statement Not all RAB members had received the bylaws in advance, so the RAB decided to table the approval until the next meeting.

A question was asked pertaining to the Section IV of the bylaws entitled "Composition" and which members had voting authority. After some discussion, it was agreed that Al Edgren

(Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry) and Steve Dubois (Alaska Department of Fish and Game) would not have voting privileges because they are representing state agencies, even though they live in the community. Only members of the community have voting privileges so that decisions are community-based and not biased by state or federal interests.

A suggestion was made and approved to change the title of Section VI "Rules of the RAB" to "RAB Responsibilities and Procedures."

5. <u>Trip Report – Dave Westerman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</u> – Dave visited Dugway Proving Grounds, Washington D.C., Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Fort McClellan and St. Louis to search for documents related to the Gerstle River Expansion Area and interview personnel that were present during the testing of Devil Hole I.

Dave presented overheads showing Tom See (Test Officer), Jim Keetch (Site Foreman for setting up grid), and Cliff Sheilds (Munitions Officer), who were interviewed about their involvement with the Devil Hole I tests at Gerstle River. Dave mentioned that some of the information he had gone over with the former test personnel was the location of bunkers, disposal sites, and sighting-in grounds. He was able to obtain some aerial photographs of the sighting-in areas. The RAB members expressed interest in obtaining copies of the aerial photos.

A handout was provided to the RAB members providing a summary of Dave's meetings with the former Gerstle River test personnel (see attached). He also has the meetings recorded on tape. Once the tapes are transcribed, the RAB members will receive the transcriptions for review.

In Washington D.C., at the National Records Center, Dave was able to locate 14 boxes of information, although most of it was from the Gerstle River Test Site (also referred to as "the active site"). He found pictures of activities associated with the Test Site and Blueberry Lake.

Dave went to Aberdeen Proving Grounds and talked to Phil Lester, who is the person responsible for getting many of the documents declassified. Phil told Dave that the Corps is downgrading the final test reports from "classified" to "official use only". Although these documents still would not be available to the general public, people who have an official use, such as state agency representatives, can examine the documents. The question was raised as to whether the RAB Co-Chair has authority to examine records that are labeled "for official use only" and the Corps replied that they have asked their legal advisors to check on it. Dave said he also found test plans he is also trying to get declassified through the Freedom of Information Act.

Dave reported that he did not find any relevant information at the Military Records Center in Washington, D.C. At Fort McClellan, he located final test reports for the Gerstle River Expansion Area and the active site and information on the Blueberry Lake incident. The RAB expressed interest in obtaining information related to the active site, such as the Blueberry Lake

incident, even though such information is not directly related to the investigation of the Gerstle River Expansion Area.

The question was asked whether the Corps had looked for information at Fort Richie in Oregon. Dave Westerman replied no.

Dave Westerman was unable to find any relevant information at St. Louis but was able to find good leads on where to locate other people to interview.

The question was asked whether the 3 people Dave interviewed stated that there were no duds at sites 9 and 10. Dave explained that these personnel were only involved with site 9 and that the men recalled no duds at site 9. Dave is in the process of preparing a trip report that will be submitted to the RAB for review upon completion.

Dave stated that, if the RAB or state agencies had any questions they would like the Corps to ask the former test personnel, the questions should be submitted to the Corps.

There is a possibility that one of the former test personnel could attend one of the RAB meetings, since two out of the three men interviewed expressed interest in coming up for a meeting. We could also hold another teleconference.

A question was asked about whether there was a better site map than the 11x17 map handed out at former RAB meetings. There are indications that the 11x17 map may be inaccurate. It was stated that Steve Dubois has a good map of the area and that the SCS office has good aerial photographs. The RAB is very interested in obtaining both historical and current aerial photographs of the Gerstle River Expansion Area. Bob Chivvis committed to attempt to locate aerial photographs and maps for the RAB.

An inquiry was made whether the Corps has any information about site 10. Dave Westerman and Bob Chivvis explained that they are working on getting data on Site 10 and that See was going to contact some of the people who worked at Site 10. The Corps knows that rounds were fired into Site 10.

6. <u>Future activities</u> – The Corps provided a handout on their activities since the last RAB meeting and what is planned for the future (see attached). The first three items on the list, the interviews with former test personnel, the historical records research, and the continued effort to declassify documents, were covered in Dave Westerman's trip report.

The scope of work for geophysical work includes reviewing the geophysical work performed in 1995 and reworking the data, using newer methods, to get a clearer picture of what is out at the site. The Corps has also prepared an authorization to clean up some drums left at the site and investigate other potential waste areas.

The Corps reviewed future activities (see handout attached) to be accomplished which included:

- Records Review Memorandum Draft by 3/15/98, Final by 7/1/98.
- Summary of Past Site Investigations Draft by 4/15/98, Final by 6/1/98.
- Refine Geophysical Data and Compare with Test Records Draft by 5/15/98, Final by 6/15/98.
- Prepare Geophysical Work Plans Draft by 6/15/98, Final by 7/15/98.
- Prepare Confirmation Dig Work Plans Draft by 6/15/98, Final by 7/15/98.
- Perform Additional Geophysical Work 8/15/98. A question was asked about what areas
 would be included in the geophysical work. The Corps replied that the Scope of Work
 covered Sites 9, 10, 11, 10 North, and 9 East.
- Determine Risk at Test Areas 8/15/98. RAB will have the opportunity to review Risk Document.
- Confirmation Dig, if necessary September 1998. If the records indicate that the anomalies found at the site are most likely shrapnel or metal fragments from shells, the confirmation dig could begin in September of this year since it would require no special personal protective equipment. However, if the records review indicates that there may be an unexploded chemical round out at one of the sites, then many special precautions have to be taken which require a lot of time for planning and support. There was discussion that September field work disrupts the hunting season (September 1 –15) and that if the field work wasn't critical, it should be planned around the hunting season. The Corps explained that, if the digging were performed this year, people should be able to hunt at the same time. If the records indicate that there is no risk at the site, the disturbance would probably be similar to the disturbance from the field work performed in 1995.
- Approval For Drum Removal and Investigation of Other Waste Areas 3/1/98. The drum removal would be performed at the Borrow Pit and Site 10 North (formerly referred to as the Burn Barrel Site).
- Remove Drums and Investigate Other Sites Summer of 1998.

(End of discussion on items presented in the handout).

A community member asked whether the bulldozed area in Site 9 was an old dump and whether magnotometer work should be performed there. Dave Westerman responded that they believe that area could be a cleared area between the Administration area/decontamination site and the observation point.

Members of the community have pointed out drums within the area that have been welded together for use as a culvert. Since these drums are no longer viable culverts, the RAB asked whether it would be possible for the Corps to remove them.

Bob Chivvis provided copies of Gerstle River Expansion Area fact sheets dated May 1996 and June 1997 for reference. He also distributed a Department of Defense technical assistance form and explained that the RAB can apply for a grant to receive money to pay a consultant to interpret technical documents for the RAB.

7. Status of firefighting at Gerstle River Expansion Area - Al Edgren reported that, as of Spring 1997, Bureau of Land Management, Alaska Fire Service will not fight fires on the ground in the entire Gerstle River Expansion Area or the Gerstle River Test Site. Al Edgren reported that the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources will fight fires on the ground within the Expansion Area up to the boundaries of known sites. If a fire occurs within the site, there is a 2,000 (feet or meter, he wasn't certain) safety boundary which is restricted for firefighting. He also mentioned that flight elevations would be restricted.

Bob Chivvis stated that the Corps is hoping that they can determine, through their investigation, whether there is a risk of fighting fires in the Gerstle River Expansion Area. If the investigation reveals there is no risk, the Corps would write a letter to the BLM and the State reporting the new information. It will be up to the BLM and State to make decisions on whether they feel it is safe to fight fires in the area. Tim Webb stated that he is concerned about fires approaching people's residences, and is not too concerned about fires burning within the individual sites on the Expansion Area. He also stated that he is hopeful that the federal government would at least fight fires within the Expansion Area, excluding the individual sites.

Bob Chivvis stated that the Corps will work together with the BLM and DNR to keep them informed about the project and encourage a change of status in their policies, if appropriate.

There were questions from RAB members about why DNR can't communicate information to BLM to encourage them to change their policy regarding fighting fires on the ground at the Gerstle River Expansion Area. Al Edgren explained that DNR talked BLM last year, and they did not agree to implement the same policy as the State. There was discussion about the BLM possibly attending a RAB meeting. There was also discussion about how the public should be kept informed about the firefighting policies of both agencies.

8. Date, time and agenda items for next meeting

The RAB expressed interest in receiving meeting materials in advance of the next RAB meeting so they have time to review items before the meeting.

It was decided that the next meeting would be held on April 8, 1998 at 6:00 p.m. at Delta Junction City Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Gerstle River Expansion Area

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting February 11, 1998



Meeting Agenda

- 1) Approve Draft Meeting Agenda
- 2) Approve December 9, 1997 RAB Meeting Minutes
- 3) Confirm new RAB members
- 4) Approve RAB Bylaws and Mission Statement
- Trip Report Dave Westerman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 The objective of the trip was to interview persons who conducted testing at the
 Gerstle River Expansion Area and continue the historical records research.
 - 6) Future Activities

Records Review Memorandum
Summary of past site investigationactivities
Refine geophysical data and compare with test records
Perform additional geophysical work
Determine risk at test areas
Confirmation dig (if warranted)
Remove drums and investigate other possible waste areas

- 7) Status of Firefighting at Gerstle River Expansion Area
- 8) Date, Time, and Agenda Items for next RAB Meeting

Summary of the Meeting with Former Gerstle River Test Personnel, 13 January 1998

On 13 January, 1998, David Westerman and Charles Camillo of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers traveled to Dugway Proving Grounds, Utah to meet with three members of the 1965 Devil Hole I test team. The three members were Tom See (Test Officer), Cliff Shields (Munitions Officer), and Alfred "Jim" Keatch (Site Foreman). The purpose of the meeting was to ask them questions pertaining to the testing and safety procedures used during the tests. The following list of questions and answers is a brief synopsis of what was discussed during this meeting.

1. How was registration done?

They did not know for sure exactly what the artillery crew used for the registration process, however, they did know that there had been High Explosives (HE) used. They talked about the fact that if there had been a dud during the registration process, the artillery officer was required to report it to the Test Officer (Tom See). Tom mentioned that they did not shoot HE into the actual grid because of the fear of knocking down the meteorological towers and destroying their test equipment.

2. What all is on the site that might show up on a magnetometer looking like a 155mm artillery round?

The three men all talked about the large size of fragmentation from chemical rounds. Cliff Shields said that usually the entire base of the projectile is intact when a chemical round explodes. He also said that during the static testing that he heard the large fragments flying over his bunker, sounding like a helicopter. He stated that these large fragments are excellent tree cutters, as they fly through the air revolving at high speed. Jim Keatch said that when a chemical round explodes, they actually peel back from the front like a banana, leaving strips nearly as long as the shell and anywhere from 1 to 3 inches wide. Jim stated that HE fragmentation is much smaller because the increased amount of explosives in the shell shatters the casing rather than peels it open.

Jim Keatch also stated that the only thing he knows of that they left on the grid was some "deadman" ground anchors for the meteorological tower guy wires. The men gathered around the aerial maps that I had brought and pointed out some places where they might have buried some additional debris from the testing. They also showed me the decontamination point for these tests.

3. Are any of you aware of any testing that might have been done on this site before 1964 or after 1968?

None of the men indicated that they knew about any testing done at Site 9 before 1964 or after 1968. They did mention that biological simulant spraying was done before they got there, but that testing was not specific to Site 9.

4. Were any of you involved with Dewpoint?

No, but Tom See said he was involved with an extension of Dewpoint at another site not in Alaska.

5. What was Devil Hole Preliminary? Were these sites shot into during this? What was the purpose?

None of the men knew anything about Devil Hole Preliminary, Phil Miller and Cliff Shields did their report based on research and personal contact with people involved with each test.

6. What is the cleared strip next to Site 9?

None of the men remembered anything about a clearing next to the grid while they were there.

7. What are all of the trails around the site?

Many times they would go to the sites in tracked vehicles through the trees. When you do that, you cannot come back on the same trail because the trees are now oriented one way, and if you try to go back on the same trail, the trees tend to come through the windows of your vehicle.

8. What is at the end of road 1408?

None of the men knew why the road ends abruptly, but they answered affirmatively when I asked them if it was possibly a tower site at one time. Tom See indicated that road 1408 was put in for the earlier biological simulant spray tests.

9. Please identify locations of any bunkers, towers, the wannigan, the Observation Post, and Command Posts.

The men indicated on the aerial photographs where each of these items was located.

10. Where were the Forward Observers located? Which observers were responsible for initial locations?

The Army had forward observers from the artillery crews in the area at locations unknown to these men. Cliff Shields said that he and his assistant were responsible for the initial sightings of the agent clouds, and that would indicate where he would start looking for the explosion damage to mark down precisely where the round went for the scientific data.

11. Where was the firing point for Sites 9 and 10?

The firing point for Site 9 was in the cleared area about 2 kilometers southwest of the Alaska Highway on road 1402. Tom See had a field notebook that indicated that the firing point for Site 10 was just inside the Gerstle River Test Site about ½ mile northwest of the entrance along the Test Site boundary fence.

12. Was there any chance of a "short round" that would not have been reported?

The men indicated that all anomalous events were reported to Tom See, even during registration. Jim Keatch said that in those days if you had a dud round, you'd go look for it immediately, especially at this site where it is not an actual range, and they knew that this land was going to be out of Army control someday. Tom See indicated that if they had had a dud round, they could not have continued to register.

13. Where did the round that went off the grid go?

During Trial B4-3, the artillery round fell about 100 yards short of the grid within the site, but on the site. The Test Officer, Tom See requested of the artillery crew that they add 100 yards to the range of the gun to put the rounds closer to the area where they had the air samplers set up. They did so and had much better results. When asked if they suspected that it did not function, they said no, because they heard it explode. (Upon further review of the logbooks, it is noted that the location they recorded is within the boundaries of Site 9.)

14. A page in the Site 10 logbook states that the crew spent the remainder of one day destroying excess munitions. Do you know where that took place?

This occurred during Devil Hole II, which none of these men worked on.

15. Who put together the final report, and is the logbook or the final report likely to be more accurate?

The final test report was put together by a scientist named Jerry Parkin, who they indicated spent little to no time at any of the Alaska sites. When asked whose report would be more accurate, Cliff Shields indicated several times that he would trust Tom See's logbook, because Tom was a very thorough Test Officer. Cliff indicated that he would even trust Tom's logbook more than his own "Munitions Logbook", because Tom received input every night during the testing from Cliff and the other test officers, and would question him about the events of the day if they were not clearly documented in their logbooks. Tom's logbook was assembled using field notes from each officer every night before retiring for the evening.

16. Was there any other testing at Site 11 other than Devil Hole II?

None of the men had any knowledge of testing during or after Devil Hole II

17. Do any of you know anything about chemical disposal procedures at the laboratory building at Fort Greely?

None of the men had any knowledge of the chemical disposal procedures at Fort Greely, but indicated that they might know who would have knowledge, but that he might not want to talk to us.

18. Where did the 3 BLU bomblets found at Site 8 come from?

The men had previously indicated that they knew nothing about any testing associated with bomblets during the Alaska testing. Tom See had worked on an extension of Dewpoint (bomblets) at another site outside of Alaska.

Gerstle River Expansion Area

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting February 11, 1998

Since the last RAB meeting

Interviewed persons who conducted testing at the Gerstle River Expansion Area Continued the historical records research Continued efforts to declassify records

Prepared scope of work for geophysical work

Prepared authorization for drum cleanup and investigation of waste areas

Future Activities

Records Review Memorandum by St. Louis District Draft March 15, Final July 1
Summary of past site investigation activities by Alaska District Draft April 15, Final June 1
Refine geophysical data and compare with test records Draft May 15, Final June 15
Prepare Geophysical work plans Draft June 15, Draft Final July 15
Prepare Confirmation Dig work plan Draft June 15, Draft Final July 15
Perform additional geophysical work August 15
Determine risk at test areas August 15
Confirmation dig (if warranted) September only if no risk
Obtain approval for drum removal and investigation of other waste areas March 1
Remove drums and investigate other waste areas Summer

EXHIBIT A MEETING ADVERTISEMENTS

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GERSTLE RIVER EXPANSION AREA RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will be holding a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting for the Gerstle River Expasnion Area. The meeting is open to all

DATE: Wednesday, February 11th

TIME: 6:00 pm

PLACE: Delta Junction City Hall

Interested parties. Topics to be discussed include a review of minutes from the last RAB meeting, confirmation of new RAB members, information obtained from interviews with personnel who participated in the testing programs conducted at the site, the status of the Corps' records review for the project, and future activities planned at the site.

For more information regarding this meeting, please contact:

OR

Mr. Bob Chivvis, RAB Agency Co-Chair U.S. Army Engineer District, Alaska (907) 753-5782 Mr. Tim Webb, RAB Community Co-Chair Delta Junction (907) 895-1024 <u>Each u</u> 10,000 d switch

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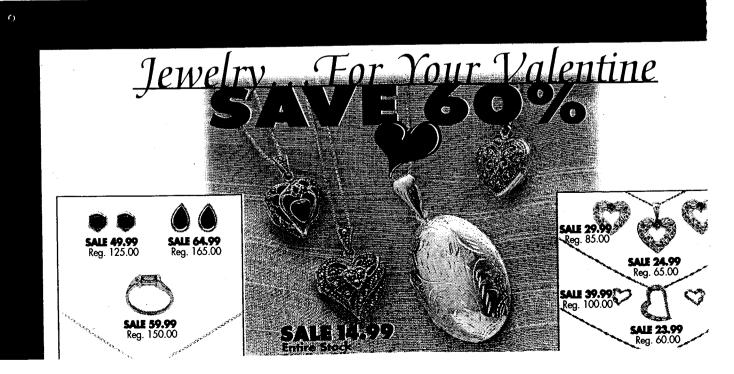




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Mr. Bob Chivvis, RAB Agency Co-Chair U.S. Army Engineer District, Alaska (907) 753-5782 Mr. Tim Webb, RAB Community Co-Chair Delta Junction (907) 895-1024

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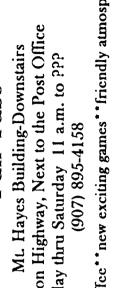
nities across Alaska and its faculty of extension specialists and district agents in land resources, home economics, 4-H and youth development and community development.

mist, Nakazawa has been with Alaska Cooperative Extension since 1981. He lives in Eagle River with his wife Lynette and two daughters. A professor and extension econo-

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GERSTLE RIVER EXPANSION AREA

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

members, information obtained from interviews with personnel who participated in the testing programs conducted at the site, the status of the Corps' records review for the project, and RAB meeting, confirmation of new RAB future activities planned at the site.

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Mr. Bob Chivvis, RAB Agency Co-chair U.S. Army Engineer District, Alaska (907) 753-5782

(907) 895-1024 Delta Junction

Wednesday, February 11th Mr. Tim Webb, RAB Community Co-chair PLACE: Delta Junction City Hall Rocking societies For more information regarding this meeting, please contact: 6:00 pm DATE: TIME: will be holding a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting for the Gerstle River interested parties. Topics to be discussed include a review of minutes from the last OR The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Expansion Area. The meeting is open to all

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PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Gerstle River Expansion Area

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Date: Wednesday, February 11th

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Delta Junction City Hall

The meeting will provide an update on the Corps of Engineers investigation of a former military weapons testing area to assure public safety.

For more information, please contact:

Mr. Tim Webb, RAB Community Co-Chair 895-1024

- or -

Mr. Bob Chivvis, RAB Agency Co-Chair (907) 753-5782



EXHIBIT B

SIGN-IN SHEETS

Gerstle River Expansion Area

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting

February 11, 1998

JIM CEVILLE

Name (Please Print)

Dave Mesterman

Tom Miller

Tamie Webb

Tim Webb

Al Edgen

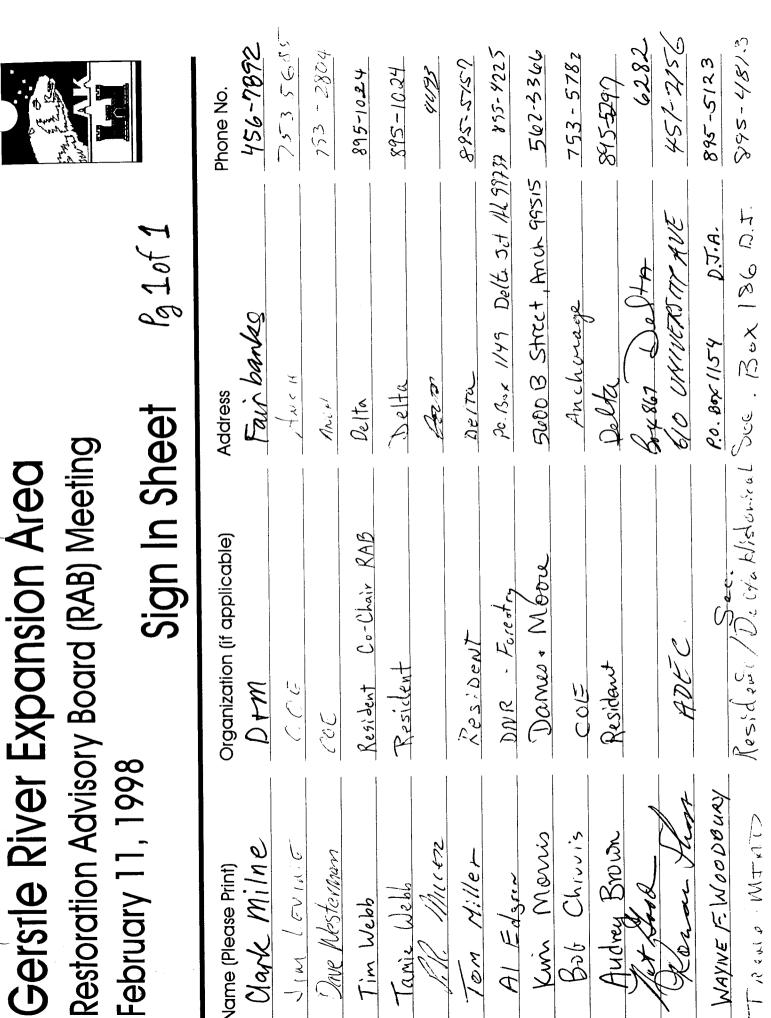


EXHIBIT C MEETING HANDOUTS

RAB/TRC Community Member Responsibilities Under the TAPP Program



Below is a simple overview of the process by which the community members of the RAB or TRC may obtain technical assistance. The DoD RAB and TRC members are available to assist community members in applying for TAPP.

Prepare and submit closeout report
Obtain assistance via DoD purchase order
Evaluate DoD's proposed provider
Prepare and submit TAPP request
Evaluate alternative sources of assistance
Define a proposed project

If needed, cor	If needed, contact Service POCs:
Army	(410) 671-1525
Navy	(703) 602-5330
Air Force	(703) 697-3427
FUDS	(202) 761-1594
DLA	(703) 767-6242
О∘О	(703) 697-5372

3400 Defense Pentagon Washington, DC 20304-3400

Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environmental Cleanup)

Technical Assistance for Public Participation

DoD Environmental Restoration Program



A Department of Defense Program to provide technical support to community members of Restoration Advisory Boards and Technical Review Committees.

EXHIBIT D RAB MEMBER CONTACT LIST